

Idaho Departments of Agriculture have requested the Administrator to issue specific exemptions for the use of thiabendazole on lentils to control *Ascochyta blight*. Information in accordance with 40 CFR part 166 was submitted as part of this request.

As part of this request, the Applicants assert that a new strain of *Ascochyta blight*, capable of spreading quickly over great distances has become established in northwest lentil fields, which is not controlled by the registered alternatives. This disease is likely to lead to significant economic losses if not adequately controlled. Thiabendazole, as a seed treatment, has proven to prevent this disease from becoming established.

The Applicants propose to make no more than one application, to be applied as a seed treatment, at a rate of 1.7 to 3.0 fluid ounces per 100 pounds of seed. A maximum amount of seed sufficient to plant 100,000 acres could be treated (55,000 acres in Washington; 45,000 acres in Idaho). This would amount to a maximum of 1,289 gallons of formulated product.

This notice does not constitute a decision by EPA on the applications themselves. The regulations governing section 18 of FIFRA require publication of a notice of receipt of an application for a specific exemption proposing a use which has been requested in 3 or more previous years, and a petition for tolerance has not yet been submitted to the Agency. The notice provides an opportunity for public comment on the applications.

The Agency will review and consider all comments received during the comment period in determining whether to issue the emergency exemptions requested by the Washington and Idaho Departments of Agriculture.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: February 17, 2000.

James Jones,

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6544-1]

Prospective Purchaser Agreement for Resolution of CERCLA Past Costs

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).

ACTION: Notice; proposed CERCLA prospective purchaser agreement.

SUMMARY: U.S. EPA is proposing to execute a Prospective Purchaser agreement (PPA) under section 122 of CERCLA (and pursuant to the inherent authority of the Attorney General of the United States) for the arranged transfer of title of the Gary Lagoons Superfund Site property from a Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Conant Land Limited (Conant) to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). In return for a covenant not to sue and contribution protection from U.S. EPA, and a covenant not to sue for federal and state Natural Resource Damages claims from the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and the State of Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), IDNR will commit to maintaining the Site property in its pristine natural Dune and Swale ecological condition. U.S. EPA is today proposing to accept this arrangement because it forwards the Agency's public policy of protecting human health and the environment, and through the use of a PPA, it allows the State of Indiana to take control of the Site property for the public good. U.S. EPA will resolve outstanding costs of approximately \$4,031,000 dollars, as against IDNR.

DATES: Comments on this proposed settlement must be received on or before March 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the proposed settlement are available at the following address for review. (It is recommended that you telephone Mr. Derrick Kimbrough at (312) 886-9749 before visiting the Region V Office). Mr. Derrick Kimbrough, OPA (P19-), Coordinator, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region V, 77 W. Jackson Boulevard (P-19), Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 886-9749.

Comments on this proposed settlement should be addressed to: (Please submit an original and three copies, if possible). Mr. Derrick Kimbrough, Coordinator, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region V, 77 W. Jackson Boulevard (P-19), Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 886-9749.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Derrick Kimbrough, Office of Public Affairs, at (312) 886-9749.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Site is a 7-acre vacant property located at 5622 and 5624-34 Industrial Highway in Gary, Indiana (Lake County). The Site consisted of two unlined and uncovered lagoons situated in a sandy environment

and surrounded by marshes and wetlands. Pursuant to the terms of the prospective Purchaser Agreement, the Prospective Purchaser (IDNR) will receive this site free of CERCLA liability and Federal or State Natural Resource Damages claims, and EPA will release the federal CERCLA Lien currently placed on the site property. A 30-day period, beginning on the date of publication, is open pursuant to section 122(1) of CERCLA for comments on the proposed prospective Purchaser Agreement. Comments should be sent to Mr. Derrick Kimbrough of the Office of Public Affairs (P-19), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

William E. Muno,

Director, Superfund Division.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[PB-402404-IL-A; FRL-6399-4]

Lead-Based Paint Activities in Target Housing and Child-Occupied Facilities; State of Illinois Interim Approval of Lead-Based Paint Activities Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; interim approval of the Illinois TSCA Section 402/404 Lead-Based Paint Accreditation and Certification Program.

SUMMARY: On April 16, 1999, the State of Illinois, through the Illinois Department of Public Health, completed an application for EPA approval to administer and enforce training and certification requirements, training program accreditation requirements, and work practice standards for lead-based paint activities in target housing and child-occupied facilities under section 402 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Illinois provided a self-certification letter stating that its program is at least as protective of human health and the environment as the Federal program and it has the legal authority and ability to implement the appropriate elements necessary to receive interim enforcement approval. In the **Federal Register** of September 1, 1999 (64 FR 47807) (FRL-6087-1), EPA published a notice announcing receipt of the State's application and requesting public comment and/or opportunity for a public hearing on the State's application. EPA did not receive any comments regarding any aspect of the